

Introduction: Methods for Environmental Quantitative Risk Assessment

This symposium is the seventh in a series presented by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Environmental Epidemiology of the University of Pittsburgh. The symposium was organized by Carol K. Redmond and Joseph P. Costantino of the Department of Biostatistics, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. The objective of the organizers was to develop a program that would present recent advances in methodologies for assessing health risk for environmental exposures; provide health researchers with information useful to evaluate the impact of environmental exposures; and assess the evidence for human health effects from exposures to selected environmental pollutants.

To accomplish these objectives the symposium was divided into five sessions, each dealing with a specific issue relevant to quantitative risk assessment of environmental exposures. The session topics included: (1) "Methodological Issues in Quantitative Risk Assessment of Reproductive Effects"; (2) "Appraisal of Current Methodologies for Measuring Exposures and Health Outcomes"; (3) "Statistical Issues in Quantitative Risk Assessment"; and (4) "Use of Biological Markers for Quantitative Risk Assessment." Individuals with particular expertise relevant to these topics were invited to be symposium presenters or discussants. The following proceedings contain the manuscripts of presentations made by these individuals.